

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1040

INFO BNDD WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16544

BNDD FOR BELK I/ A AND AMEMB BELGRADE FOR DR. BOURNE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TGEN FR

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: FRENCH USE OF PAPAVER BRACTEATUM

REF: A. STATE 098883; B. PARIS 14977; C. STATE 113960

SUMMARY: CLIN- BYLA (FRANCO- PAVOT) PURSUING LIMITED EXPERI-
MENTAL RESEARCH IN GROWTH (ONE HECTARE), CULTIVATION, AND
EXTRACTION BRACTEATUM. COMPANY PROCESS TO CONVERT THEBAINE
TO CODEINE IS COMMERCIAL. CLIN- BYLA OFFICIALS CONCERNED
OVER PURPOSE OF USG INQUIRY. COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES AND GOF
OFFICIAL SUGGEST FALL MEETING WOULD BE MORE INFORMATIVE FOR
U. S. OFFICIALS. ACTION REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

1. SCIATT CONTACTED MESSRS. DUMONT, CANDILLON, AND BOURGNE OF
CLIN- BYLA (PARENT COMPANY OF FRANCO- PAVOT) TO PURSUE QUESTIONS
POSED PARA 3, REF A. DUMONT' S RESPONSES AS FOLLOWS:

A. COMPANY IS ACTIVELY PURSUING RESEARCH IN GROWTH, CULTIVATION
OF BRACTEATUM, ALTHOUGH THIS IS STILL A STRICTLY EXPERIMENTAL
PROGRAM. LESS THAN ON HECTARE IS PLANTED THIS YEAR.

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B. COMPANY HAS IMPORTED BRACTEATUM, BUT HAS MADE NO IMPORTS IN 1973 BECAUSE BRACTEATUM IS NOT YET AVAILABLE. (SINCE BRACTEATUM CAN BE CULTIVATED ONLY ONCE A YEAR, WITH HARVEST LATE JUNE - EARLY JULY IN IRAN, AND LATE JULY IN FRANCE, NONE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR IMPORT BEFORE MID- JULY.) DUMONT IMPLIED COMPANY HAS PLACED BIDS FOR PARTS OF IRANIAN CROP, BUT IS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS DETAILS BECAUSE THESE BIDS IN CURRENT COMPETITION WITH U. S. PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS ALSO SEEKING IRANIAN BRACTEATUM. COMPLETE FIGURES ON IMPORTS- EXPORTS PRODUCTION, AND USE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT NEXT UN-SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON BRACTEATUM IN FALL (PARA 3).

C. THE EXTRACTION OF THEBAINE FROM BRACTEATUM IS ALSO STILL AN EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM AND WILL REMAIN SO FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS. COMPANY HAS GREAT HOPES FOR EVENTUAL COMMERCIAL VIABILITY OF TOTAL GROWTH AND EXTRACTION PROCESS.

D. THEBAINE IS CONVERTED TO CODEINE BY CLIN- BYLA AT A CURRENT RATE OF ABOUT 1500 KG CODEINE PER YEAR. THE COMPANY HOLDS INTERNATIONAL PATENTS ON THE PROCESS AND IS INTERESTED IN SECURING U. S. LICENSEES. NOTE THAT THE THEBAINE FOR THIS COMMERCIAL CONVERSION IS OBTAINED BY THE SELECTIVE EXTRACTION OF OPIUM AND NOT FROM BRACTEATUM.

3. IF U. S. INTEREST IS SPECIFICALLY IN RESEARCH COOPERATION OR IN PROCESS LICENSING, COMPANY WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS BRACTEATUM NOW WITH U. S. OFFICIALS. DUMONT NOTES THAT THERE ARE TEN CENTERS IN U. S. CURRENTLY EXPERIMENTING WITH BRACTEATUM. COMPANY STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON PRODUCTION OR CULTIVATION INFORMATION BEFORE END OF JULY PREMATURE, AND NOTED THAT JUNE AND JULY ARE FOR THEM VERY HECTIC MONTHS. COMPANY SUGGESTS MEETING WITH SAODAP OFFICIALS AT UN MEETING ON BRACTEATUM (PARA 4).

2. THROUGHOUT CONVERSATIONS, WHILE PROVIDING ABOVE INFORMATION, COMPANY OFFICIALS DEMONSTRATED CLEAR CONCERN OVER PURPOSE OF U. S. INQUIRY AND FEAR OF CO
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